Dear Les,

9/28/76

A strange and dangerous situation has developed with the House assassinations investigating committee. It provides an opportunity for unusual and responsible journalism. I believe I have done all the essential work and to the degree the Mark Lanes and Don Freeds of the world permit, own it.

Typical is the corrupting of your fine work by those who stole it along with mine. They were not content to luxuriate in the phoney fame the thievery provided. This corruption may well have been the deciding influence in the establishing of the committee. That, too, is characteristic, as it is one of the reasons for my concern.

Foreseeing this situation was not only easy - I did anticipate it. I tried to address it in a speech I was to have delivered at NYU law school in April 1975. I got sick and Jim read the unedited speech for me. I tried to address it with members of the Church committee prior to the Schweiker subcommittee, did lay it out forcefully to Schweiker and then turned in other directions when it was apparent I could not undo all the nuts and self-seekers had done and were determined to continue doing.

When I wrote Ken Brief after your stories appeared I was trying to look ahead. My purpose was not merely attention to information about the JFK assassination. The Post, Times and other metro papers are hungup and have their own pasts with which to try to live. I've been through it with them all. They are all disgusted with the government because it refuses to recognize them as part of government, the brain-trust part. Party makes no difference.

Beginning about 1967, about when Garrison's irresponsibilities added to my previous publishing difficulties made me consider what I do not believe I had until then, I did some rethinking. As one result I've had to cast myself in a role other than what is normal to a writer. I think you understand this.

Now I face the problem of trying to keep this farout gang and an at least partly farout committee for going berserk and visiting further great disasters on the country. I began when it became apparent that they were up to the utterly irrational, pushing an investigation resolution through when the House was about to end its legal existence. Once some of them accomplished the irrational they had second thoughts. I don't know whether this wing is entirely hopeless. The others are. There are also engaged in the most bitter in-fighting. There is conflicting ambition and contending irrationality.

As soon as the game these people were playing became a parent I started putting pressures on Bud Fensterwald, who has from the first been Downing's choice as counsel. This has also been Bud's longing, a consuming lust. The first result is that Downing's staff honcho on this, Rick Feeney, phoned to seek my advice the day the resolution passed. It was firm and very pointed. Last week Bud finally reacted back to me. He told me he had come to agree with all I had counselled and wanted to discuss it more with me. He came Sunday for this. He then told me, whether or not faithfully, that Downing had agreed completely with what I recommended. And my cautions.

I had recommended that for this session the committee restrict itself to laying a foundation in fact for the investigation to follow. I interpreted this to mean that it address both assassinations as a prosecutor would address any homicide.

This is the most thoroughly obfuscated part of the official "investigation." It has also been the focus of my work, most recently in my FOIA suits. I have done all this basic work for them and offered it if I am assured of responsibility. Here I'm talking about the formerly suppressed official records I've rescued from oblivion. They are official, they were suppressed and they leave no doubt that the entire official account is false and was known to be false.

This, of course, is a hell of a dose for any officials to swallow. But there really is no question about fact - as it relates to the homicide(s) as distinguished from the killers and motives.

As of Sunday night I'm under the impression that I will be testifying to all of this probably as soon as the election is over. I then went farthur and urged that all my testimony be in confrontation with those who testified otherwise before the Warren Commission, each of us subject to the penalties of perjury. If this is accepted I think there is little chance the official explanations will be overturned. It may or may not have influence the subsequent investigation toward responsibility. I can think of no other way of trying to.

The journalistic opportunity is to do this in advance of the Congressional investigation. All that now requires is a rewrite job only a little more complicated than condensing a book. I believe a by-product could be a book with a best-selling potential. To now I've rebuffed all such offers because to now the timing has not been right. I have all the official documents necessary, have even a chain of possession on them, and I have what I have not yet published.

Would you please talk to Ken Brief about this?

I'm rushing to be able to mail this today. Sorry about the typing. This is a machine I've not used since World War II. My regular one is in the shop.

If Newsday can be interested much more can go with it, like what I'm suing for and what I've already obtained.

Here is my schedule for the rest of the week. Thursday and Friday in federal court in D.C., Thursday on King evidence, Friday on the sweeping remand in that JFK case relating to the suppressed scientific tests. Friday I have a lunch date with Howard Bray, director of the Fund for Investigative Journalism, on a proposal for use of some of the unpublished stuff. After that a medical check-up. I do not expect Thursday's session to run past the morning. I do expect responses to interrogatories in a third case by the end of the week. This one deals with Ford as JoeMcCarthy over Norman Redlich and the suppression of what was embarrassing to the CIA in particular, what the KGB defector Yuri Nosenko said that was suppressed. The Russians did suspect Oswald was an American "sleeper" agent. I have that now and what the Commission suppressed about it.

Hastily,